

Senate File 167 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 167
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 1030)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to eligibility for the health care loan
2 repayment program.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 261.116, subsection 1, Code 2019, is
2 amended by adding the following new paragraph:

3 NEW PARAGRAPH. *Ob.* "*Mental health professional*" means the
4 same as defined in section 228.1.

5 Sec. 2. Section 261.116, subsection 2, Code 2019, is amended
6 to read as follows:

7 2. *Program established.* A health care loan repayment
8 program is established to be administered by the commission for
9 purposes of repaying the qualified student loans of registered
10 nurses, advanced registered nurse practitioners, mental health
11 professionals, physician assistants, and nurse educators who
12 practice full-time in a service commitment area or teach in
13 this state, as appropriate, and who are selected for the
14 program in accordance with [this section](#). An applicant who is a
15 member of the Iowa national guard is exempt from the service
16 commitment area requirement, but shall submit an affidavit
17 verifying the applicant is practicing full-time in this state.

18 Sec. 3. Section 261.116, subsection 3, paragraph c, Code
19 2019, is amended to read as follows:

20 c. Complete and return, on a form approved by the
21 commission, an affidavit of practice verifying that the
22 applicant is a registered nurse, an advanced registered nurse
23 practitioner, a mental health professional, or a physician
24 assistant who is practicing full-time in a service commitment
25 area in this state or is a nurse educator who teaches full-time
26 in this state. If practice in a service commitment area is
27 required as a condition of receiving loan repayment, the
28 affidavit shall specify the service commitment area in which
29 the applicant is practicing full-time.

30 EXPLANATION

31 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
32 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

33 This bill adds mental health professionals to the list of
34 individuals who are eligible for loan repayment of qualified
35 student loans under the health care loan repayment program

1 administered by the college student aid commission.

2 Under the definition of "mental health professional" used
3 for purposes of the program, a mental health professional is
4 a person who either 1) holds at least a master's degree in
5 a mental health field, or is an advanced registered nurse
6 practitioner, a physician assistant, or a physician and
7 surgeon or an osteopathic physician and surgeon; holds a
8 current Iowa license if practicing in a field covered by an
9 Iowa licensure law; and has at least two years of post-degree
10 clinical experience in assessing mental health needs and
11 problems and in providing appropriate mental health services;
12 or 2) holds a current Iowa license if practicing in a field
13 covered by an Iowa licensure law and is a psychiatrist, an
14 advanced registered nurse practitioner who holds a national
15 certification in psychiatric mental health care and is licensed
16 by the board of nursing, a physician assistant practicing under
17 the supervision of a psychiatrist, or an individual who holds a
18 doctorate degree in psychology and is licensed by the board of
19 psychology.

20 To qualify for the program, applicants must complete and
21 return to the commission an affidavit of practice verifying
22 that the applicant is or will be practicing full-time in a
23 service commitment area in this state. The Act defines a
24 service commitment area as a city in Iowa with a population of
25 less than 26,000 that is located more than 20 miles from a city
26 with a population of 50,000 or more.

27 The annual amount of loan repayment to a program applicant is
28 \$6,000 or 20 percent of the recipient's total qualified student
29 loan, whichever amount is less.